

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 5, line 29 through page 6 line 1, as follows:

Catalysts active for the oxidation of alkane to alkene and carboxylic acid may comprise any suitable catalysts known in the art, for example, for the oxidation of ethane to ethylene and acetic acid as described in US 4596787, EP-A-0407091, DE 19620542, WO 99/20592, DE 19630832, WO 98/47850, WO 99/51339 EP-A-0 1043064, WO 9913980, US 5300682 and US 5300684, ~~the contents of which are hereby incorporated by reference.~~

Please amend the paragraph at page 6, lines 8-9 as follows:

DE 19620542 relates to molybdenum, palladium, rhenium based oxidation catalysts for the production of acetic acid from ethane and/or ethylene comprising the elements according to the formula (set forth at column 2, lines 11-25 of counterpart U.S. patent 6,034,270):

Mo_aPd_bRe_cX_dY_e

where the symbols X, Y have the following meanings:

X=Cr, Mn, Nb, B, Ta, Ti, V and/or W, in particular Nb, V and W

Y=Bi, Ce, Co, Cu, Te, Fe, Li, K, Na, Rb, Be, Mg, Ca, Sr, Ba, Ni, P, Pb, Sb, Si, Sn,

Tl and/or U, in particular Ca, Sb, Te and Li.

The indices a, b, c, d and e are the gram atom ratios of the corresponding elements, where a=1, b>0, c>0, d=0.05-2 and e=0-3.

Please delete the paragraph at page 6, lines 16-18 in its entirety, and replace by the following new paragraph:

US 6,194,610 relates to a process for the selective preparation of acetic acid from ethane, ethylene or mixtures thereof and the catalyst having the formula



where the symbols X and Y have the following meanings:

X is one or more elements selected from the group consisting of: Cr, Mn, Nb, Ta, Ti, V, Te and/or W, in particular Nb, V and W;

Y is one or more elements selected from the group consisting of: B, Al, Ga, In, Pt, Zn, Cd, Bi, Ce, Co, Cu, Rh, Ir, Au, Ag, Fe, Ru, Os, K, Rb, Cs, Mg, Ca, Sr, Ba, Zr, Hf, Ni, P, Pb, Sb, Si, Sn, Tl and U, in particular Ca, Sb and Li.

The indices a, b, c and d are the gram atom ratios of the corresponding elements, where

a=1, b>0, c>0, and d=0-2.

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 7, line 20 through page 8 line 2, as follows:

Other suitable oxidation catalysts for use in the present invention are described in WO 99/13980 which relates to the use of catalysts with elements in combination with oxygen in the relative gram atom ratios of $\text{Mo}_a\text{V}_b\text{Nb}_c\text{X}_d$ where X = P, B, Hf, Te or As; US 6030920 which relates to the use of catalysts with elements in combination with oxygen in the relative gram atom ratios of $\text{Mo}_a\text{V}_b\text{Nb}_c\text{Pd}_d$; WO 00/00284 which relates to the use of catalysts with elements in combination with oxygen in the relative gram atom ratios of $\text{Mo}_a\text{V}_b\text{Nb}_c\text{Pd}_d$ and/or $\text{Mo}_a\text{V}_b\text{La}_c\text{Pd}_d$; US 6087297 which relates to the use of catalysts

with elements in combination with oxygen in the relative gram atom ratios of $Mo_aV_bPd_cLa_d$; WO 00/09260 which relates to the use of catalysts with elements in combination with oxygen in the relative gram atom ratios of $Mo_aV_bLa_cPd_dNb_eX_f$ where $X = Cu$ or Cr and e and f can be zero; WO 00/29106 and WO 00/29105 which relate to the use of catalysts with elements in combination with oxygen in the relative gram atom ratios of $Mo_aV_bGa_cPd_dNb_eX_f$ wherein $X = La$, Te , Ge , Zn , Si , In or W and WO 00/38833 which relates to the use of catalysts with elements in combination with oxygen in the relative gram atom ratios of $Mo_aV_bLa_cPd_dNb_eX_f$ wherein $X = Al$, Ga , Ge or Si , ~~the contents of which are hereby incorporated by reference.~~

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 11, line 5 as follows:

Catalysts known in the art for the production of alkenyl carboxylates may be used in the process of the present invention. Thus, catalyst active for the production of vinyl acetate which may be used in a second reaction zone of the present invention may comprise, for example, catalysts as described in GB 1 559 540; US 5,185,308 and EP-A-0672453 ~~the contents of which are hereby incorporated by reference.~~